

**IMPROVED PARTICULATES FOR SUBTERRANEAN APPLICATIONS AND
METHODS OF UTILIZING THESE PARTICULATES IN
SUBTERRANEAN APPLICATIONS**

Abstract of the Disclosure

[039] The present invention involves reduced specific gravity particulates and their use in subterranean applications such as production enhancement and completion. One embodiment of the present invention provides particulates comprising silica and an aluminum oxide and at least one void and having a specific gravity of less than about 2.2, a particle size of 8 U.S. Mesh or smaller, and a substantially spherical shape. Other embodiments of the present invention provide for using such particulates in subterranean operations such as fracturing and gravel packing.